

## OUR STATE PENITENTIARIES

### A Synopsis of What The Investigating Committee Found And Reported

The rules adopted for the government of the officers, employees and convicts have been violated, ignored and flouted.

Great straps of sole leather have been used for the beating of convicts; no attention being paid to the legal restrictions upon the size of the "bat" nor its use.

Many convicts were examined who showed scars and sores, indicating the most inhumane use of the strap.

Gambling was found to exist as the sole form of diversion at some of the camps.

At some of the camps no medical supervision; attending physicians living miles away from the camps.

Inspectors have ignored the law, have made few complaints as to insanitary conditions, and these complaints have been ignored by the officials. Camps have not been visited as they should have been, conditions have not been looked into and corrected, as the law provides.

The inspectors have been grossly negligent in not preventing abuses with the strap and have not guarded as they should the health and comfort of the prisoners.

At some of the camps the convicts are forced to sleep on dirty mattresses and the rule requiring clean sheets once a week is entirely ignored.

The prison buildings at Huntsville are antiquated, badly ventilated and without proper sewage and bathing facilities. Wooden bedsteads provide breeding places for vermin.

The prison buildings at Rusk have been permitted to go to rack, are badly out of repair, are without proper sewerage and bathing facilities; the convicts are crowded and the wooden beds harbor much vermin. The bedding is unclean and general conditions are insanitary.

The sanitary conditions on the contract and share farms are generally unsatisfactory; convicts with communicable diseases bathe in the same water which the men who may catch them must use; and in one instance it found that water for the baths was taken from a pond in which hogs had been wallowing.

There are many complaints as to the quality of the food and the manner in which it is prepared for consumption. The plates and cups used by the convicts are not generally in a condition of cleanliness.

Little attention is paid to the fitting of clothing, resulting in much discomfort to men with suits too large or too small for them; no care is given the clothing and many of the convicts are forced to wear suits which are ragged, buttonless and generally dirty and dilapidated.

The shoes are heavy brogans, very hard on the feet and a pair is expected to last a man three months. Shoes of better quality would mean more comfort and less trouble to the wearer and to the sergeants and would enable the men to do more work.

The constant shifting of forces from farm to foundry and shop and reverse is bad for everyone; better results could be obtained by assigning men to the work for which they are best suited and keeping them at it.

Men unaccustomed to hard labor are set at tasks which are beyond their physical capacity with very serious results to them. Many of them are afflicted with venereal disease, but are given no attention by competent physicians. Many men have been made physical wrecks by overwork and general neglect, rendering them incapable of supporting themselves after release.

Convicts are often cursed and abused in terms which are so vile that they may not be printed. The men fear to report abuse by guards to superior officers, being afraid that vengeance will be wreaked upon them.

Work in the lignite mines has been found to be extra hazardous, dangerous to life and limb and nearly certain to undermine the health of the men; recommendations that the contract with the owners of the Calvert mine, where extraordinarily bad conditions exist, have been ignored by the authorities and responsibility is placed upon the shoulders of the penitentiary managers by the legislative committee.

Men have been compelled to work in the rain and mud and dry clothing was not furnished them upon their return to the prisons. Some of the sergeants compel the men to run as far as three miles in going to and from work, the guards riding.

Ancient scandals were unearthed at the farm for women, and two of the men involved by the testimony are still in the employ of the penitentiary commission.

There is every opportunity for dishonesty under the present system of furnishing supplies of food and clothing to the various camps, though no actual loss is alleged.

At the outside camps there are no regular religious services, no reading matter and no effort at instructing the men in useful knowledge.

There has been a continued improvement in the food and general conditions.

At some of the camps there are good hospital arrangements and competent physicians in charge.

In some instances the farms and places where convicts are kept show an observance of the rules to the letter of the law, the sanitary conditions are good and the men well treated and are not lashed or overworked.

The regulations regarding the food are well observed and the instructions to all sergeants is to the effect that the supply is sufficient, the preparation what should be and the quality good.—Houston Post.

#### Williams Case With Jury.

Amarillo, Nov. 28.—Although the attorneys for both sides expected to conclude the testimony in the case of John Williams charged with the murder of William Armstrong, foreman of N. I. T. ranch near Bovina about a year ago, there were several witnesses still unexamined when court was adjourned for the week last night. Williams testified yesterday afternoon on his own behalf. The state will put on several more witnesses Monday and the case will probably begin in the jury before the middle of the week.

#### No Service Sunday

Last Sunday was such a bad day on account of the weather, that there were no religious services conducted at any of the churches. This does not often occur in Lubbock, but this is one time that the weather man got the best of the church-going people.

#### First Wreck on New Road

Last Sunday the first wreck on the road from Lubbock to Plainview occurred a few miles north of Lubbock. There was not much damage done, except to the track which was slightly torn up. Three freight cars jumped the track, but did not turn over.

The nice \$2500 residence of C. P. Simpson, which is being built on South Singer street is nearing completion and will be quite an addition to this already beautiful street.

Lowrey & Son cannot tell you many nuts they have, but will show you if you will call on them. Phones 197 and 29. 21 1t

Mrs. Frank Lovelace who has been visiting relatives here returned Tuesday to her home in Roswell.

Mrs. J. P. Posey and children returned home Tuesday from a visit to relatives in Plainview.

J. R. Ingram is now living in the Elliott residence in the Overton Addition.

J. G. Hardy of Grovesville, was here Wednesday.

J. W. Taylor of Plainview, had business in Lubbock Wednesday.

S. K. McDaniel of Tahoka, was here this week.

John Baker of Amarillo, spent the first of the week here.

E. N. Twaddle was a business visitor in Plainview Tuesday.

## Acuff Items

Two days and nights steady rains. The ground good and wet and everybody happy.

Chas. Vernon, of Lubbock, has rented the M. S. Acuff place and will move here about the 1st of January.

Farris & Long, of Meadow, is up shipping out a bunch of cattle this week.

Miss Pearl Day of Estacado, spent a few days with the Misses Burford, last and this week.

R. E. Hoops, M. A. Evitt and J. H. Kemp are still attending court at Lubbock.

W. J. Stallcup and wife were at Lubbock, Tuesday, on business.

Jno. S. Abel, started a load of fruit trees to Yoakum county this week for delivery at a fine time for setting out trees.

L. O. Burford went to Lubbock, Tuesday on business.

W. J. Drury has the G. A. Pyron place for next year and we predict a good crop on that place.

Walter and Frank Rowland of Big Springs, are visiting at S. S. Rushes and will look over part of New Mexico, before returning home.

Born to Will Todd and wife a boy of usual size. All doing well.

Will Candler went to Post City last week on business.

Happy Jack.

#### General Rain In Panhandle

That the recent rains have been general throughout the Panhandle section seems evident from newspaper reports along this line.

Lubbock county has not had a finer rain for some time and it seems to have extended to the southern portion of the plains and to the north in the Dalhart and Childress country they have had a quite a lot of snow.

The weather in this part of Plains has been very pleasant, not being cold enough to justify overcoats.

The outlook for a crop of small grain was never better. A number of acres have been planted to small grain and it is reasonable to expect this next season will be a banner crop year on the Plains. In most places the recent rains were badly needed.

A. B. Kronig of Bellevue, N. M., was a business visitor in Lubbock one day this week.

Well do you know that you must make a rent case for Christmas; Lowrey & Son have the goods. Phone 197 and 29. 21 1t

W. C. Wells, a prominent merchant of Tahoka, was here on business this week.

Ward Thompson of Whitesboro, was a business visitor to Lubbock the first of the week.

R. M. Richardson of Plainview was here on business a few days this week.

A. H. Mayes of Eldorado, spent part of this week in our city.

R. A. Chambers of Tahoka, was a business visitor in Lubbock this week.

E. L. Gillion of Iola, Kan., was a prospector in Lubbock this week.

L. S. Christopher of Meadow, was here the early part of the week.

Jesse Hamilton of Brownfield, spent a day or so of this week in our city.

John G. Hufstetler one of the Avalanche composers has been on the sick list this week.

Jesse Williams of Tahoka, was in town this week.

Mrs. C. Helm of Emma, was here this week.

Geo. Watson of Crosbyton, was here this week on business.

#### J. E. MURFEE & SON

REAL ESTATE

List your property with me and if the price is reasonable I will sell it for you. I have a good list of property for sale and will be glad to figure with any one on a deal.

## Social Events

By MISS MILDRED MOORE  
Phone No. 7.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE—Miss Mildred Moore has accepted a position as social editor of the Avalanche and all entertainments, parties, receptions, balls or socials will be reported by her. You will confer a favor on the management of this paper if you will report such news items to her, that she may be able to get up a good line of items along this line.

A most delightful evening was spent by a crowd of young folks from town and country, with Miss Chattie Boles, on last Wednesday evening. Many interesting games were indulged in, after which delicious refreshments of punch and cake were served. After supper music was furnished by Mrs. Boles, Dennis Warren, Earl and John Green, with which the time was so quickly passed away that the time for good bye came much too soon. Those who enjoyed Miss Chattie's hospitality, were:

Misses Elva Glover, Myrtle Patterson, Dezzie Johnston, Eva Wheelock, Lillie Barclay, Dora Green, Wilda Warren and Ada Everett. Messrs Virgil Warren, John Green, Jess Rush, Add Clark, Dennis Warren, Will Wright, Horace Anderson, Earl Green and Jim Johnston.

Negroes, clowns, cowboys, maids, little boys, little girls, old ladies and other "Nationalities" enjoyed a dance at the Woodma Hall on last Thursday evening. After several sets the masks were removed and thereby much merriment created. The music, which was fine, was furnished by Messrs Edwards, Moore and little Hubert Neal. All agreed the occasion to be one of Lubbock's greatest successes.

The Odd Fellows' wives and sweethearts partook of a grand supper at the Band Hall last Thursday night. Over a hundred were present. The first on the program was music, by Miss Della Wilkinson, which was followed by an address on "Friendship, Love and Truth" by Judge Greer. Last, but by no means least, was the recitation, "Lullaby," by Miss Elsie Hodder. Supper followed, after which games were played until twelve o'clock when the crowd took their leave.

#### Warning No. Two

I again wish to warn the people of Lubbock that the town is not sufficiently protected by water so that the fighting machines will be of much use off the square. Be governed accordingly with your care of fire. I have warned you before to look to your flues, and also in case of fire to keep all doors shut, except possibly one, as this keeps the draught down and protects your house. The recent fire was caused by a defective flue.

If you find your house on fire phone central. Remember this.

H. Frederick, Chief, Fire Dept.

#### Oh You South America

Latin America manages to keep itself before the world. Those fellows are great advertisers. Fact is they are entitled to first place around the board. The latest break of our latin brother is the slaughter of two of the Anglo-Americans. You see it is like this; our Anglo-American goes down to "Dead Language" America, and sees a chance to make a big stake. He starts a revolution and expects his end of the America's to stand at his back. Nations move slow. He fails in his revolution, is caught, tried—and "comfortably" shot before this end of the America's can get its dogs of war in action. Such is life in Latin America. Success succeeds. Failure means death—in Latin America. Navey?

## Classified Ads.

### Special Notices

"Miller & Guinn"

Contractors & Builders

See us before you build, we are in a position to save you money on your house. Investigate our plan of business, and inspect our work. We guarantee quality. 18 1t

NOTICE.—My land is all off the market. J. G. Hardy. Grovesville, Tex. 12-11p

NOTICE—Those who know them selves to be indebted to the Star Drug Company will please call and settle their accounts at once. The old firm has sold out and we must close up our old business. J. C. Dean, Lubbock, Texas. 191t

### Notice

After December the first I must have cash for all feed stuff, as I have to pay cash. Geo. Albright 21 1t

### For Sale

FOR SALE—640 acres of land situated in Terry and Hockley Co. Price \$8.00 per acre Leonard Frazier, Burnet, Burnet Co., Tex. 19 3tp

FOR SALE BY OWNER—Who has 160 acres choice land in Lubbock or Hale Co. to trade for some 1st class Lubbock lots. Dr. J. A. Carver, Lubbock Texas. 21 1t

### Cedar Post for Sale

To dealers only. If you want first class cedar Posts and Blocks, write Isom Watkins, Lake Victor, Texas. 14 1t

FOR SALE—Bundle Kaffir corn well headed at O. C. Shmet's place seven miles northeast of town. 21 2tp

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Two story brick building in Norman, Okla., will trade for Lubbock county lands. See Pierce Bros. 21 1t

AUTOMOBILE FOR SALE—four passenger, shaft drive, top and lamps. Will trade for vacant lots or improved city property, or will sell cheap for cash or sell on time, for good note. J. J. Dillard, Lubbock Texas. 20 1t

FOR SALE—Mosley safe. Weight twenty two hundred pounds. Good as new. This safe will go cheap. See Wesson & Holland. 20 2t

FOR SALE—CHOICE quarter section of land near Altus Railroad, 5 miles northwest of Petersburg, Hale county, and 8 miles of the Santa Fe Railroad. Address the owner A. H. Clinton at Avalanche office Lubbock Texas. 18 1t

### For Rent

FOR RENT—Two new store buildings in Abernathy. Apply at First National Bank. Lubbock, Texas. 18 1t

FOR RENT—Two nicely furnished rooms. Close in. Be ready by first of December. Phone 121. 20 2t

### Lost

LOST—Black fur scarf, between the Stocking Racket Store and the Mercantile. Finder will leave at Avalanche office and get reward. T. J. Brown 21 1t

LOST—One Vendors Lien Note, dated December the 15th 1908, due in one year for \$180, signed by R. E. Penney to N. E. Dupree. Finder return to N. E. Dupree, Lubbock, Texas. 21 1t

LOST—Dark brown horse, branded K on left thigh, got out of the pen last Saturday in Lubbock. Finder return to this office and received reward.

LOST—One brown horse branded J. L. B on left thigh scald on right shoulder. Liberal reward for his recovery or information leading to his recovery. Jim Robinson, Jr. 13 1t

### Wanted

WANTED—Lady to do house work. Will pay fair salary. Apply at Mrs. J. J. Dillard. 1t

WANTED—To exchange 3 to 8000 worth of choice lots in Lubbock, for Vendor Lien land notes or unimproved land in Lubbock or Hale Co's. See Carver & McWhorter. Lubbock, Texas 21 1t

WANTED—Men to grub 200 acres of land. Apply to H. T. Kimbro, at First National Bank, Lubbock, Texas. 18 4t

WANTED—Girl for general housework. Good wages. Mrs. H. T. Kimbro. 20 2t

B. E. Hilderbrand of Abernathy, was here Wednesday on business.

## The Best.. Bargains

Write us about land in Lubbock or adjoining counties. We handle both large and small tracts improved or unimproved, we have a large list of the most desirable lands that are real Bargains, and it will pay you to see our lands before you buy.

We now have about 2000 acres sub-divided in 160 acre tracts that we can sell for \$15.00 per acre, 1-2 cash, balance from one to six years at 8 per cent interest. This land is of the best quality on the Plains and only six to eight miles of Railroad Station and good town. Now is the time to get a 160 acre tract that will make you a good home or a splendid investment.

We have sold \$250,000.00 worth of land in Lubbock county for the year 1909. If you have real estate of any kind to sell write us, giving complete description, price, terms etc., and if reasonable we can sell it. If you have a real bargain write us, we buy land.

We refer you to the First National Bank of Lubbock, Texas. Farmers National Bank of Haskell, Texas and The Taylor National Bank of Taylor, Texas, as to our honesty and ability.

Write them, and if their reply is satisfactory to you we will appreciate your business.

Call and see us when you come to Lubbock. We will save you money.

If interested in Lubbock county lands, write for booklet.

We ask both prospective buyers and land owners to call on us or write us about all land matters if we can favor you we will be glad to do so and will give all matters prompt attention.

Call on, or write  
**Patterson & Son**  
Lubbock, Texas